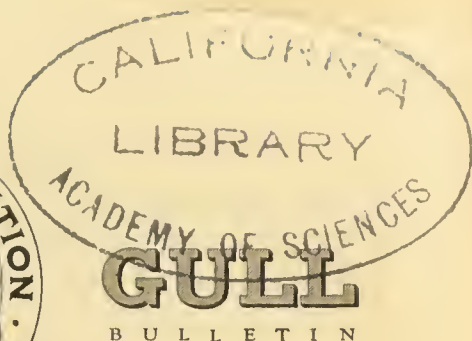


THE

MONTHLY



VOLUME 1

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JULY, 1919

NUMBER 7

JULY MEETING: The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, the 10th of July, at 8 o'clock, in the lecture hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

Mr. Charles N. Douglas will open a discussion on Bird Coloration and Plumage in which other members present will be expected to participate.

* * *

JULY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Golden Gate Park on Sunday, July 13, 1919. Meet at 43rd Avenue and Fulton Street entrance at 9:30 a. m. o'clock. Take McAllister car No. 5, "Beach" sign. Bring lunch.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUNE MEETING: The twenty-ninth regular meeting was held on the 12th of June in the Ferry Building, President Lastreto presiding.

The meeting was given over to personal recitations of individual observations of the members themselves. Many very interesting experiences were narrated and animated general discussions were indulged in. Among others, the following contributed to the entertainment and instruction of the evening: Messrs. Smith, Wright and Douglas, Dr. D'Evelyn, Mrs. Smith and Miss Crane.

* * *

ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR ANNEX: The summer vacation is now on, and the activities of the junior department are suspended until next term. If we expect to carry through an active program in this line of work, we must secure a greater support from the general membership of the Association. We need members to act as instructors; many groups of juniors wish to form Audubon clubs, but we are unable to accept them, without some adult taking charge. It is not necessary that the instructor be an expert; almost anyone interested in bird study will be acceptable to handle a group once a month without any difficulty.

A fine talk on the Coloration and the Plumage of Birds was given by Mr. Douglas to the Boy Scouts at the headquarters of Troop 53, boys of other troops also attending. The lecture was well illustrated with a number of skins kindly furnished by the Academy of Science.

* * *

EDUCATIONAL WORK AT TAHOE

The California Nature Study League and the California Fish and Game Commission are co-operating in the development of the love of nature in our pleasure-seeking vacationists, and, what will be as worthy, to make better known to those that abstractly "love nature" the objects of their affection and to reveal to many the unknown whys of their love. The former organization has donated books, pictures and specimens of birds, etc., to the State, and the Fish and Game Commission has arranged their distribution in appropriate localities provocatively accessible to those in their outing pilgrimages and at a time when they are most receptive to

study intimately the miracles of nature. In addition to these there will be lectures given and field trips taken, and we understand that this will be the enviable work of Dr. Bryant principally.

Little comment is needed to speculate on the added profit and pleasure that will be given to whatever benefit is sought by motorists, campers and the like. But we heartily commend the movement especially because the resulting closer acquaintance with nature's beings is bound to develop a better sentiment favoring wild life conservation.

* * *

SPARROW ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

The need of organized effort to combat the heartless and destructive pursuit of unthinking and of selfish people is, so far as concerns birds, one of the principal reasons for the existence of Audubon societies. None the less is it within this scope to properly direct the well-intentioned in their desire to improve bird conditions, especially when found to be on the wrong track.

In line with this policy, our attention has been called by our fellow member, Mr. E. L. Bickford, of Napa, to a "Sparrow Eradication Campaign Now On" in Napa and encouraged by the Farm Bureau, who publish in their Monthly (June 1, 1919, p. 3) lengthy directions on the use of poisoned grain for killing sparrows. Parenthetically it may be noted that throughout, the general term, "sparrow," is used; including—unintentionally though it be—our prized and harmless Nuttalls, Gambels, song, golden crowned, fox, chipping, etc., sparrows, whom comparatively few distinguish from the unspecified, though intended, English sparrow. And may we add the comforting information that "The dead [poisoned] sparrows will not kill cats,

* * * so there need be no fear in this regard"!

Parenthetically, we said, but our readers will have already jumped at the conclusion we had started out to reach: "Indiscriminate," as Mr. Bickford correctly qualifies it; how many innocents will pay the toll for a few wary English sparrows, and with not one cat to counterbalance the price. And it would not need a very high destruction of our valuable species to lead to their disappearance, greatly to the advantage of the repropagation of the, though few, remaining English sparrows that would certainly escape—in spite of the immune feline.

Welcoming the Farm Bureau Monthly's project to eradicate this pest, we do not wish to be misinterpreted as other than co-operating, though in doing so, we call attention to the faults in the methods prescribed, and it is to illustrate and to emphasize the necessity of scientific information and expert advice on even an apparently simple matter.

We have caused Dr. Bryant to supply this, and he has sent copies of his manual on the subject of combating English sparrows and further informed the Farm Bureau of the existence of a State law against setting out poisoned grain.

Not of little consequence may be the resulting attitude in many who in being thus antagonized towards the sparrow—English sparrow intended—may learn to hate the other undistinguished sparrows. Imagine, to hate our little song sparrow!

We have no doubt that Mr. Bickford can worthily act as our representative in giving some instructions on the discrimination between the English and the other sparrows, incidentally emphasizing the nearly equally desirable "eradication" of the cat; and we hope that the Farm Bureau Monthly will give him appropriate assistance.

* * *

Twelve hours after Col. Roosevelt's death, Mr. William Beebe, the well-known ornithologist, received a letter written by the ex-President—probably the last letter he wrote—calling Mr. Beebe's attention to a technical error in a book on Pheasants, etc., written by Mr. Beebe and which Col.

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Roosevelt was reviewing, the point in question being the classification of grouse in the old world and the new world species.

Not merely as a demonstration of the versatility of the late Colonel's field of study but as a terminal episode—the coincidence of the communication is specially interesting to all bird students.

* * *

OIL UPON THE WATERS

At the recent convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the subject of oil pollution on the Ocean waters by certain tankers was introduced by our honorary President, who is acting on the joint committee on the subject. In addition to the resulting discussion, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Pacific Fisheries Society at Pasadena, June 20, 1919:

"WHEREAS, it has come to the knowledge of the Pacific Fisheries Society that certain oil companies have been, and at least one still is, in the habit of pumping the ballast water from the tanks upon the arrival of their tankers in the vicinity of the Farallone Islands and elsewhere off the California Coast, and

WHEREAS, it is known that the oil pumped out with the ballast water is sufficient in quantity when spread over the surface of the sea to cause great suffering and final death to vast numbers of sea birds, particularly the diving species such as murre, guillemots, puffins and cormorants, that the oil also kills surface-swimming young fish as well as the plankton upon which young fish feed, and it is known that young clams on the beach, particularly the Pismo clams near Port Hartford, are also killed in great numbers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pacific Fisheries Society condemns the practice and strongly protests against its continuance. The Society calls upon any oil company that has not already done so to give the matter immediate and careful consideration and promptly install a system or method by which this wanton destruction of bird life and injury to the fisheries may be averted.

(Signed) S. H. DADO,
Secretary.

(Signed) BARTON WARREN EVERMANN,
President."

At the meeting Mr. Scofield of the California Fish and Game Commission reported that the oil washed up on the shore near Pismo and Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, is destroying all of the young clams in the neighborhood. As this is a very serious matter it enlists other interests in co-operation with our object in protecting bird life as discussed in our previous issues.

Dr. Evermann is to be commended for his activity in this work in the pursuit of which he specially called upon a Southern California oil company, who so far remains the only one that has not installed the required equipment to obviate the pumping of oily ballast from their tankers on the Ocean waters.

* * *

A MOTOR TRIP RECORD

Usually it is not the best way to go a-birding in an automobile, but here is a good record made by some of our members on a two-day motor trip from Oakland to Mount Hamilton:

Date: May 31st and June 1st, 1919.

Weather: Warm and sunny.

1, Anna Hummingbird; 2, Allen Hummingbird; 3, Red-shafted Flicker; 4, California Woodpecker; 5, Harris Woodpecker; 6, Gairdner Woodpecker; 7, Sapsucker; 8, Red-tailed Hawk; 9, Sharp-shinned Hawk; 10, Sparrow Hawk; 11, Turkey Buzzard; 12, Screech Owl; 13, Black Phoebe; 14, Western Flycatcher; 15, Wood Pewee; 16, Violet-green Swallow; 17, Barn Swallow; 18, Cliff Swallow; 19, House Wren; 20, Vigor's Wren; 21, Lutescent Warbler; 22, Yellow Warbler; 23, Long-tailed Chat; 24, Meadow Lark;

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25, Brewer Blackbirds; 26, Red-winged Blackbird; 27, Bullock Oriole; 28, California Wren-tit; 29, California Bush-tit; 30, Plain Tit-mouse; 31, Warbling Vireo; 32, Hutton Vireo; 33, Brown Towhee; 34, Spurred Towhee; 35, Black-headed Grosbeak; 36, Lazuli Bunting; 37, Linnet; 38, Purple Finch; 39, Green-backed Goldfinch; 40, Willow Goldfinch; 41, Nuttall Sparrow; 42, Song Sparrow; 43, Chipping Sparrow; 44, Cedar Waxwing; 45, Stellar Jay; 46, California Blue Jay; 47, Western Crow; 48, Yellow-billed Magpie (5); 49, Western Bluebird; 50, Russet-backed Thrush; 51, California Quail; 52, Shrike; 53, Mourning Dove; 54, Olive-sided Flycatcher; 55, Western Martin (1 pair).



THE JUNE FIELD TRIP was made on Sunday, fifteenth ult., by a party of nineteen, in spite of the fact that several devotees of Tennessee Cove were unable to be with us on that day. The party was strung along as usual and the express section had nearly finished lunch when the local reached the ocean. Some criticism was made of the birds because they did not perch in open sight and announce their names in a clear tenor voice.

The day was delightful, sunny and clear, with a rather strong wind from the southwest. The features of the trip were a Bullock Oriole's nest, with mother and young, and a colony of Baird cormorants ensconced on the cliffs south of the cove, fishing and feeding their nestlings. As the old birds swept gracefully from the cliffs, the white flanks and tail coverts showed plainly.

On the bay, gulls were few, but California, Western and Heermann were noted. Near Manzanita, a great blue heron, a crow and Brewer blackbirds were seen. Thereafter, song and Nuttall sparrows, green-backed and willow goldfinches; meadow larks, many black phoebe families, linnets and bush-tits; San Francisco and California towhees, chickadees, Vigor's wrens and wren-tits; cliff, barn, and tree swallows; red-tailed hawk and turkey vulture; California and coast jays; Anna and Allen hummers; bluebird, western flycatcher, yellow warblers, horned larks, bicolored blackbirds, russet-backed thrushes and flicker; Bullock oriole, nest and young; Baird cormorants and young; black-headed grosbeak, quail and a murre; forty species.

The greater portion of the party left the beach in time for supper at home, but the incorrigibles remained until nearly eight o'clock, walking to Sausalito to catch the 10:50 boat.

The list of members included the Misses Ames, Ayer, Flynn and King; Mesdames Kelly and Roe; Messrs. Bell and Webb; Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Kibbe. As guests, the Misses Flynn, Natalie Healy and Henrietta Witt; Mr. and Mrs. Mareska; Messrs. Kelly and Juillerat.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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